

OSS FORM 2202

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FROM:

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

FILE 6-517

A-21161

G-1431

Accession No.

Date Rec'd SA

FEB 14 1944

To	Room No.	Date Rec'd	Date Fwd'd.	Officer's Initials	Comments
1.		100	2/15	PLS R	
2.				DISSEMINATED - F.I.B.I.	
3.			MAR 1 1944		
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.				DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY	
8.				SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 382B NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT	
9.				DATE 2008	
10.	ROOM 100				

Each comment should be numbered to correspond with number in To column.

A line should be drawn across sheet under each comment.

Officer Designations should be used in To column.

Each Officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing.

Action desired or action taken should be indicated in Comments column.

Routing sheet should always be returned to Registry.

For Officer Designations see separate sheet.

(X)

(20640)

SECRET

SITE OF STATE FIL. SERVICES
U. S. ARMY BASE IN THE ISRAEL STATE

FEB 14 1944
No. 3 1431
Jerusalem

~~SECRET~~ UNCLASSIFIED

III. Muhammad el-Sinti

Supplementary To A 14329 (C) (1)
(continuation of reports No. 9687 and 9677)

Muhammad

el-Sinti, an ar. of vision and son of banana-planter of Palestine, is about 66 years old, and like Jubah and urbanized turkish, has never been modern in aspect, but is most modern in far-seeing & vision. His education was limited.

I. About 1879 - 1880 he first bought land in the town of Jericho, along the southern bank of wad el Kelt. He also purchased the springs of Farwar and 'ad el Kelt in the rocky crevices of the latter name.

During the first years el-Sinti flooded bits of land, planted grain and vegetables, and irrigated with the winter water flow from the Kelt. In drought years the Kelt dried up prematurely, and his crops failed, - the water supply was too insecure.

II. By 1913 he had obtained a clear title deed to the water in the Kelt gorge and the tract of desert south of the 'ad el Kelt, from the foothills to the Jordan and stretching nearly as far as the Dead Sea.

A. There are remains of some six ancient aqueducts in the gorge. Muhammed decided to repair one to give him a steady supply of water, summer as well as winter.

B. Just prior to "Ordu ar One" Muhammed borrowed 4000 gold pounds and invested most in imported cement. The outbreak of war put a stop to importation, but nothing counted, he owned the Greek convent in the Jordan Valley had stocks of cement, which he pushed in with the reconstruction.

C. At this time there were many deserters from the Turkish army, among them Christian armenian and armenian artisans. These he hired, fed and lodged in the mill or in the Greek Orthodox Convent of St. George. He fed as well a band of armed Turkish deserters, no rototet them, and any officer who might have sought the deserters he "kept content".

D. When his money gave out, he started dealing in meat at Kerak in Trans-Jordan, supplying it to the Turkish army, and made 4500 Turkish gold pounds, all of which, along with the income from the mill, was in turn invested in the aqueduct. From the same of small irrigated vegetable gardens around the mill, he maintained a large family dependent on him.

E. The aqueduct was finally completed about the time of Aliyah's occupation.

III. Soon after this Muhammed Efendi started planting bananas on large tracts. Up till then the banana was a rare fruit, grown only in small quantities in the orange groves of Jaffa and Jericho.

A. When the plantation outgrew the water supply he ordered the canal up to Ain Farwar (the "bubbler") an intermittent spring, that may fail in drought years.

IV. About this time Jerusalem had outgrown its old cisterns and inadequate water supply piped in from Wilson's Spring, Ain Farash, the municipality, disregarding Muhammed's claims to the ownership of the water, built a km. of road to the spring, and at a cost of £P 15,000, dug and pumped the water up to the then existing Ain Farash installation, where it was twice pumped to Jerusalem. During the second summer the Farash spring dried up, and a continuation of the pipe was made down to the ad el Kelt spring. In recompense for half the water the municipality paid Muhammed £P 3000 the first year, and £P 2500 the second.

Mut iordin
As soon as the first small contract was signed, Affendi pushed a concrete canal from the end of his aqueduct right to his far-flung groves, thus saving as much fresh water as the Jerusalem municipality was taking, so that his plantations did not suffer, nor did he have to restock the area. Thus he was the first person in Palestine to construct and privately own an irrigating aqueduct now known for its length, cost, and the vision behind it. Since then, Government and Jewish communal bodies have constructed many such advertised irrigating systems.

B. With no waste, or much through leakage and seepage, Makhedin was able to irrigate 350 dunums of banana plantation, and succeeded in raising various kinds of fruit which before that had been largely luxuriantly planted.

Scale.
His example has been widely followed, so that the Arabs of Palestine now own 3000 dunums of banana plantations, mostly in the lower Jordan Valley, with an addition of 1100 on the Transjordan side of the valley.likewise the Jews, mostly the Kibbutz settlements around Galilee, the Middle Jordan Valley, and less in the Coastal Plain, own another 2300 dunums, a total of 6400 dunums, yielding a yearly average crop of 6500 tons, valued at £ 150,000.

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